

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ZOOLOGY OF NEW GUINEA.

NOTES ON BIRDS FROM MOUNT ASTROLABE, WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., &c.

Having recently received a small collection of Birds from Mount Astrolabe on the S.E. Coast of New Guinea, I beg to offer some remarks thereon, with descriptions of two new species of Birds of Paradise.

LOPHORINA SUPERBA MINOR.

The specimens from the mountainous parts of the south-east end of New Guinea are smaller than those received from the north-west end of the Island, otherwise they appear to be much the same in coloration.

Adult Male.—A purple tinge from the ear-coverts, surrounds the nape below the steel-blue of the crown and occiput; the hind neck, mantle, and tips of the long plumes are distinctly oil-green, with a brassy tinge; the wings and tail are jet black and velvety, with a shade of purple or steel-blue on the upper tail coverts and the two centre tail feathers, the inner webs of the others blackish-brown. The chest-shield and its elongate plumes glossy steel-blue, or metallic green according to the light. The crown and occiput similar in tint, with a bar of violet purple about the middle of each feather. Under surface black, with a slight purplish-tinge; throat black, chin black with the anterior feathers elongated and directed forwards, reaching more than half-way to the tip of the bill. Bill, legs, and feet black.

Total length, 8.50 in.; wing, 5.40; tail, 3.90; tarsus, 1.30; bill from forehead, 1.10; from nostril, 0.70.

All the specimens examined are about the same size, and differ from those of Mount Arfak, and from the north-western parts of New Guinea, collected by Beccari and d'Albertis. On reference to the measurements they will be seen to be slightly smaller.

It is only fair to say that some months ago, I saw similar specimens in a collection made by Mr. Hunstein, who was, I believe, the first to discover this species in the south-eastern portion of New Guinea.

PAROTIA LAWESII. Sp. nov.

This species resembles the *Parotia seypennis* (Bodd), but differs in the following particulars—the frontal white shield or crest is placed over the nostrils and on the forehead in a line with the bill, and *not* across or at right angles to it, the feathers from each side folded and recurved over a dividing line, which extends to the base of an olive metallic brown shield, which is placed between erect side plumes over the eye, the remainder of the feathers of the head of a more brassy olive tint; the occipital ridge or tippet-like crest of stiff elongated feathers are of a clear steel-blue, purple or violet, but no green tinge so conspicuous in *P. sefilata*, (Penn.) The broad chest shield of metallic feathers is of a much deeper tinge of brassy green, and of a fiery orange tint in certain lights. There are other slight differences, such as the disposal to a greater or lesser extent of the metallic tints on the wings and tail, the spathulate or webbed tips of the elongated shafts from the ear-coverts are proportionately larger and broader, and the tail very much shorter. Bill black, legs and feet blackish brown.

Total length (*of skins*), 9 inches; wing, 6 inches; tail, 3·2; tarsus, 1·7; bill from forehead, 1·25; from gape, 1·25; from anterior margin of nasal crest, 0·6; length of ear plumes, 6·3 inches.

The measurements of an adult male *Parotia sefilata* from Mount Arfak are as follows:—Total length, 13 inches; wing, 6·5; tail, 5·4; tarsus, 2·1; bill from gape, 1·5.

The specimens of this species were obtained on the slopes of Mount Astrolabe.

XANTHOMELAS AUREUS. Linn.

That this bird inhabits the south-east end of New Guinea, is proved by the occurrence of the feathers in various head dresses worn by the natives, which we have from time to time received from thence, they are sometimes worked together with the ear and nape plumes of *Parotia Lawesii*, and *Lophorina superba minor*, &c.

MYZOMELA ROSENBERGI, &c.

In the collection of specimens recently received, I found four adult males of this very distinct species.

The following species not hitherto recorded also occur:—*Trichoglossus popuana*, *T. josephinae*, *T. pulchellus* and *T. muschenbrokii*, and *Chatorhynchus papuana*.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF COLLYRIOCINCLA, FROM THE SCRUBS IN THE VICINITY OF CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND.

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COLLYRIOCINCLA BOWERI. Sp. nov.

Adult Male.—All the upper surface dark lead-blue, wings and tail brown; all the under surface rufous inclining to chesnut, deepest in colour on the under wing-coverts, axillaries, abdomen, and under tail-coverts; chin inclining to ashy grey, an indistinct ashy grey spot in front of the eye; ear-coverts and sides of head like the back and upper surface; throat and chest with a distinct lead-blue shaft line down the centre of the feathers; bill and bristles black, legs and feet blackish lead colour. Total length (*of skin*), 7·7 inches; wing, 4 inches; tail, 3·5 inches; tarsus, 1·1 inches;

bill from the forehead, 1·1 from nostril, 0·7 ; from gape, 1·2 inches. In form the bill is long and straight, narrow, slightly tapering and very slightly curved from the base to the tip. Measurements in the flesh. "Irides brown, bill black, legs bluish lead ; length, 8¼ inches. December 12, 1884." B. B.

This species which I have named after its discoverer, T. H. Bowyer Bower, Esq., was found in the scrubs of the Cairns District, Queensland ; it is quite distinct from any of the varieties of *C. rufigaster*, or *C. parvissima* of Gould.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Mr. C. S. Wilkinson, F.G.S., exhibited a collection of recent shells, which had been obtained at depths of from 24 to 60 feet in sinking through the estuarine deposits of the Stockton, and Bullock Island and Wickham Coal Pits, and the Harbour Works near Newcastle. At a depth of 55 feet at Stockton a piece of wood 3 feet long and 1 foot thick was also found. Some of the specimens were collected by Mr. John Mackenzie, F.G.S., Mr. Cecil Darley, C.E., and Mr. J. Rossiter. One of the shells Mr. Brazier stated does not now live upon the Newcastle Coast, but it exists in Tasmania. A collection of shells from a similar deposit at the Maryville Colliery was exhibited before the Society a few months ago by Mr. J. G. Griffin. C.E.

Dr. Cox remarked that amongst the sub-fossils exhibited by Mr. Wilkinson, there was to him one of special interest, he referred to the *Syphonalia maxima*, Tryon. Hitherto this species had only been recorded from Tasmania, but he had recently ascertained that it existed also on the Victorian Coast near Port Phillip Heads. Dr. Cox considered that this sub-fossil tended to confirm the hypothesis that a colder climate prevailed at some not very remote period of this colony. The discovery also of the *Voluta papillosa*, and *Cyprea umbilicata* for the first time on our coast by deep sea dredgings, and alive, led Prof. Wyville Thompson